



The Canvas



Letter from the President



I am pleased to say our staff are the major focus when building each year's budget for Rainbows United. In fact, more than 80% of the budget is committed

to employee wages and benefits. Rainbows employs 309 individuals. Of these employees, 138 are full-time; 128 are part-time; 21 are intermittent; and 22 are temporary.

Our staff consist of therapists, educators, paraprofessionals, social workers, mental health specialists, autism specialists, social workers, case managers, medical personnel, direct service providers, and other support staff so we can all help serve more than 3,800 children and their families.

Many of the staff who are part-time are direct service providers (DSP) who provide in-home and center-based care to children and youth between the ages of 5 and 21. These services allow parents to work, further their education, participate in activities of their other children or have some respite from their daily challenges. For many of

these direct service providers, their work at Rainbows is a second job or employment while going through college.

Like other providers who serve those with developmental disabilities, we struggle hiring enough direct service providers to provide the number of hours of care that families need. Sedgwick County Developmental Disability Organization (SCDDO) recently launched a six month long, DSP Public Relations/Recruitment campaign. Be on the lookout for billboards, TV commercials, radio spots and social media all promoting this campaign. We appreciate the investment Sedgwick County has put into this campaign. It is the hope that through these media channels individuals will learn more about being a direct service provider and be attracted to these positions. Even better if you know of someone who would make a great direct service provider, send them our way.

Thank you,

Deb Voth, President

Lindsay Smith joins team

Vice President of Finance/Chief Financial Officer, Lindsay Smith, joined Rainbows' Executive Leadership team in August. She ensures the financial health of the agency and works closely with staff and Board of Directors.

She has extensive not-for-profit experience including many years at Wichita Independent School, Susan G. Komen-Wichita and Kansas Humane Society.

A life-long Wichitan, Lindsay is a Wichita State University alum with a bachelor's degree in Business Accounting.



She is passionate about helping children and animals. Outside of work, Lindsay trains for the 3-day, 60-mile Susan G. Komen walk event in honor of her sister and is involved in her church. She also loves reading a good book and spending time with her family.

She is married to Ron Smith and they have 2 sons, one grandson and a dog.

Welcome to Rainbows!

Provide life changing services through Annual Campaign

As you may know, finding high quality child care can be a struggle for any family with young children. Finding child care for a child with special needs can be an even bigger challenge. When Heather needed child care for her son Sam, she already knew the quality of Rainbows' services because he had received Infant/Toddler Services in their home for his first year.

Heather and Sam got connected to Rainbows right after his birth. His Spina Bifida and other medical issues were unexpected. He had 7 surgeries his first year. "Our physical therapy services during Sam's first year helped relieve so much anxiety about his condition."

"Sam's speech language pathologist, changed Sam's life completely when she identified a hearing issue," said Heather. "I can't imagine how far behind



his speech would have been if we had waited any longer to address his hearing."

You can provide joy and life changing therapies with your ongoing gifts to Rainbows' Annual Campaign.

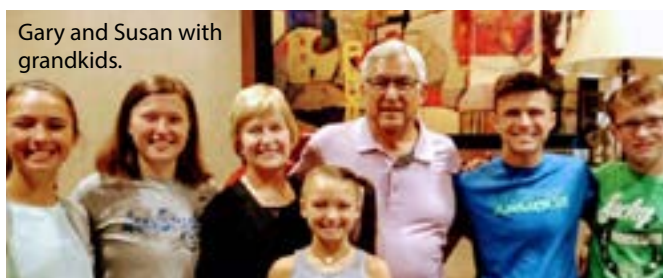
We're counting on your gift to help us reach our goal of \$1.3 million by December 31, 2019 to support services to 3,800 children with special needs and their families in our community, just like Sam.

Giving Opportunities through the QCD

Gary and Susan Proffitt have been faithful supporters of Rainbows for many years. Through volunteer leadership and service and as donors, the Proffitts have been champions of children with special needs and their families. Recently, when considering Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) and their own personal plans, their accountant suggested Gary and Susan consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

Starting at age 70 and a half, individuals can make a QCD directly from certain retirement accounts such as a traditional IRA, paying no income tax on the distribution.* When donors like the Proffitts combine their charitable desires with required minimum distributions, the QCD can be a good option to consider. "We were giving to Rainbows and a few other organizations because they were close to our hearts and we believed strongly in them," Gary shared. "In the past, we had made our charitable contributions and taken a tax deduction. Now, this structure allowed us to give in a way that made the most sense for us this year."

"We would give regardless, but this option became available and was the best option for us." The charitable contribution benefits are certainly nice, but Gary notes that what he values most is knowing that their investments will yield changed lives – for children and families – for years to come!



Gary and Susan with grandkids.

* Each donor should consult their own financial advisers.



Rainbows was honored to receive a gift of \$200 from ResCare. ResCare consumers and staff conducted several fundraisers over the summer, most recently through collecting change for a pie in the face contest.

Executive Director Tom Kiel said, "Supporting Rainbows and Camp Woodchuck falls right in line with our mission. ResCare means 'respect and care' and that's the sum of what we do."

Thank you ResCare for being a wonderful neighbor.

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